

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 01523 200459Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06
OMB-01 /062 W
-----200846Z 108076 /13

R 200400Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8419
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
US MISSION GENEVA 2371
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
DEA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 1523

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TH, UK
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: POSSIBLE VISIT TO THAILAND OF "POMPIDOU GROUP"

REF: A) STATE 009851 (NOTAL), B) BANGKOK 0482 (NOTAL),
C) LONDON 00850 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: EMBASSY AGREES POSSIBLE VISIT OF "POMPIDOU GROUP"
COULD BE USEFUL WITH CAVEATS MENTIONED IN REF. A. BELOW
ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS GROUP MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER AS
POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES DURING SUCH A VISIT. END SUMMARY:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 01523 200459Z

1. EMBASSY BANGKOK AGREES THAT DISCOURAGING THE
PROPOSED INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF THE "POMPIDOU GROUP"
AT THIS POINT (REF.A) MIGHT HAVE AN UNDESIRABLE EFFECT
ON CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ENLIST EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN THE ANIT-NARCOTICS EFFORT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
EMBASSY ALSO AGREES THAT IF THE INITIATIVE IS ALONG
THE LINES SUGGESTED IN REF. A, AND APPROACH BY THE

"POMPIDOU GROUP" COULD BE OF BENEFIT.

2. IN ADDITION TO A GENERAL EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE THAI ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT, THERE ARE TWO AREAS IN WHICH WE THINK THE EUROPEANS MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL.

3. THE PROBLEM OF DISPOSAL OF SEIZED ILLEGAL OPIATES IN THAILAND HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED, DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF AMBASSADORS WHITEHOUSE AND VANCE. THE THAI MINISTER OF HEALTH HAS SHOWN AN INTEREST IN SELLING EXISTING STOCKS OF SEIZED OPIATES TO LEGITIMATE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES BUT APPEARS TO BE HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN WORKING OUT THE MECHANICS OF SUCH SALES. WHILE WE HAVE MADE SEVERAL APPROACHES TO THE MINISTER ON THE SUBJECT, AND HAVE PROVIDED HIM WITH THE NAMES OF EUROPEAN PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN BUYING SEIZED MORPHINE AND HEROIN, NO ACTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO DATE. AN EFFORT BY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS OF THE "POMPIDOU GROUP" TO ASSIST THE RTG IN CONTACTING APPROPRIATE EUROPEAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES ABLE TO CONVERT SEIZED NARCOTICS INTO LEGITIMATE PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS MIGHT HASTEN THE SECURE DISPOSAL OF PRESENT STOCKS. WE ASSUME THAT THE POTENTIAL PROFITS INVOLVED WOULD AID IN SUCH AN EFFORT.

4. BRITISH AND OTHER POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF "POMPIDOU GROUP" TEAM MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO KNOW THAT THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH WAS HOLDING ABOUT 800 KILOS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 01523 200459Z

OF HEROIN, AND OVER 1000 KILOGRAMS OF MORPHINE AT THE END OF 1976. SEIZED OPIUM IS HELD AND PERIODICALLY AUCTIONED BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE UNDER ARRANGEMENTS REPORTED TO GENEVA.

5. THE EUROPEANS MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL IN THE AREA OF MARKETING SUBSTITUTE CROPS. DUTCH MINISTER OF JUSTICE VAN AGT EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM OF FINDING SUITABLE SUBSTITUTE CROPS FOR OPIUM AND FINDING READY MARKETS FOR THESE CROPS DURING HIS VISIT TO BANGKOK THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REVOLVING FUND TO ASSURE A READY MARKET FOR CROPS GROWN BY HILL FARMERS WOULD SEEM TO BE A SIMPLE AND RELATIVELY CHEAP PROJECT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FUND NEED BE NO LARGER THAN US\$500,000 TO US\$1.0 MILLION. IT COULD BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE UN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, OR MIGHT BE HANDLED BY EUROPEAN PRIVATE CONCERNS. CROPS CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED AS PROMISING SUBSTITUTES FOR OPIUM CULTIVATIONS SUCH AS COFFEE, PYRETHRUM,

OIL SEEDS, VARIOUS SEED CROPS, ETC. HAVE A POTENT-
IALLY HIGHT MARKET VALUE, AND PRIVATE FIRMS MIGHT ALSO
BE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO A REVOLVING FUND
TO FACILITATE MARKETING OF SUCH ITEMS.
WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, MEETING AGENDA, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO01523
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770021-0277
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770134/aaaabdug.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f7f807d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 9851, 77 BANGKOK 482
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3552414
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS: POSSIBLE VISIT TO THAILAND OF "POMPIDOU GROUP"
TAGS: SNAR, TH, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f7f807d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009